

2. Library

NEWMARKET RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of Cambridgeshire



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

for

1961

J. DRUMMOND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Newmarket Rural District Council,

Shire Hall,

Cambridge.

Tel No : Cambridge 58811

NEWMARKET RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of Cambridgeshire

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

for

1961

J. DRUMMOND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Newmarket Rural District Council,

Shire Hall,

Cambridge.

Tel No : Cambridge 58811

GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area: Land 80,856 acres.

Water 245 acres.

Number of Parishes: 22.

Rateable Value: £153,422 (1.4.62).

Estimated sum represented by a penny rate for the year 1961-1962: £598.

Number of inhabited houses: 7403

Estimated mid-year Home Population: 20,930.

Census Population 1961: 20,887.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|------|
| Birth Rate | .. | .. | 15·8 |
| (Corrected) | | .. | 17·2 |
| Death Rate | .. | .. | 11·7 |
| (Corrected) | | .. | 10·6 |
| Infant Mortality Rate | | | 15·2 |

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

CHAIRMAN

Councillor R. S. T. Bowden, Dip.Bact., M.R.C.V.S.

COUNCILLORS

E. Cooper Bland.

J. H. Budden.

F. S. Fuller.

A. F. Gathercole.

Revd. J. B. Goodchild.

Mrs. S. Horwood-Smart.

Col. D. R. B. Kaye, D.S.O.

J. T. Nunn.

H. Palmer, J.P.

J. G. A. Paul.

E. J. Pollard.

Mrs. J. O. Smith.

L. G. Warren.

Mrs. N. West.

STAFF

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Medical Officer of Health: | James Drummond, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. |
| Chief Public Health Inspector: | D. Howells, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H. |
| Additional Public Health Inspector: | F. H. Mason, A.R.S.H. |
| Clerk: | Miss S. E. Furze. |

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Newmarket Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1961 prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 3/62 dated 16th April, 1962.

Vital Statistics.

During the year the estimated population rose by 870,—an increase of over 4%—the first substantial increase in population that has been recorded in the area for some years. Although there has only been a slight increase in population during the ten intercensal years between 1951 and 1961, it may be hoped that the rise during the past year heralds a continuing population increase. As building land becomes more difficult to obtain in and near the city there is a steady spread of development to those villages which offer ready access to Cambridge, particularly where a main sewer is available.

The birth rate dropped to almost the same rate that prevailed two years ago which is slightly below the national figure, but the death rate has remained virtually unchanged.

There has been a rise in the infant mortality rate from the unusually low figure of the previous year and, while this is to be regretted, for statistical reasons it was not unexpected and need occasion no particular alarm.

Infectious Disease.

The great increase in the number of infectious disease notifications was the result of the re-appearance of measles following the traditional biennial pattern of outbreaks. Although generally the disease was mild, one death is recorded.

The outbreak of tuberculosis reported on last year continued to show its effect for when the returns are examined, five more cases of respiratory tuberculosis were on the register at the end of the year than at the beginning.

As a follow-up measure to try to trace any unknown cases or new cases which might have been "seeded" by the outbreak in 1960, the co-operation of the Mass Miniature Radiography unit of the Regional Hospital Board was obtained and community surveys carried out in the villages directly involved, i.e. Fordham, Soham and Isleham. Such community surveys require months of preparation and hard work, particularly by the voluntary workers recruited from the villages themselves. Their's is the job of canvassing the individual houses, explaining the purpose of the survey, dispelling fears, encouraging attendance and arranging appointments. It is all the more gratifying therefore, to report that a high degree of success was obtained in all three villages but particularly in Isleham where over 80% of the available population attended for X-ray. I wish to thank Dr. Smith, the Director of the M.M.R. Unit and all her staff for the way in which they carried out the survey. There is no doubt that community surveys carried out with efficiency and enthusiasm can play a significant part in the elimination of tuberculosis from a community or the control of minor outbreaks such as we have recently experienced.

Sanitary Circumstances.

In the Chief Public Health Inspector's report an increase of some 10% in the number of visits is reported. This is almost wholly connected with drainage and sewerage and has been occasioned by the bringing into operation of additional sewerage schemes and surveys for future plans. During the year the sewerage of Burwell was completed and work continued on the Fordham scheme. The proposals for Dullingham have been submitted to the appropriate ministry for approval and schemes are in the course of preparation for Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior, Reach, Isleham and Cheveley. In addition, approval was given to minor extensions in Soham and other areas which were eliminated by the ministry, on the grounds of economy, from the original scheme, but where nuisances exist. The cost of the work is, now of course, considerably higher.

That 68 houses were built by the council during the year is a matter for some satisfaction in view of the difficulties which many councils are experiencing in obtaining both land and labour. This year also, saw the opening of Hereward House at Soham, the special units of old people's accommodation where there is a supervising warden. The scheme has proved to be a complete success and a great deal of the credit must go to the warden who has set herself a high standard for the degree of support she gives her charges. The atmosphere which is established in the first few weeks of occupancy is vital to the reputation that such schemes will carry in the community. From the fact that a watchful hesitancy on the part of the prospective tenants has been converted to an eager waiting list there can be no doubt that the correct tone has been struck.

It is hoped that further units will be built elsewhere in the area within the near future to help solve the all too common problem of old people existing in deteriorating rural slums and which continue to cause the department considerable concern.

It remains a source of considerable satisfaction that the slaughterhouses in the area serve as such good examples of what a rural slaughterhouse can be at a capital cost that even a small butcher can afford. They provide a working answer to the argument that all meat should be produced in centralised factory abbatoirs and have helped to foster pride in the quality of meat that the butchers sell to their customers.

These arguments for the establishment of large centralised abbatoirs come particularly from those in veterinary circles who suggest that the present system for meat inspection is most unsatisfactory and that all inspection should be carried out, if not by qualified veterinary surgeons, then under their close supervision.

It seems singularly inappropriate that this proposition should be voiced so forcibly at a time when the amount of disease in slaughtered animals has never been lower and the quality of meat never higher.

Once again to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and indeed to all Members of the Council, I record my gratitude for their interest, help and appreciation.

Mr. Howells, Chief Public Health Inspector, and Mr. Mason have had another very busy year and as always have given me most readily of their assistance.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES DRUMMOND.

August, 1962.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations).

| Live Births. | | | | | | | | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|---------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 167 | 144 | 311 |
| Illegitimate | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11 | 8 | 19 |
| | | | | | | | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Totals | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 178 | 152 | 330 |
| | | | | | | | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Birth rate per thousand estimated population | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 15·8 |
| Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1·09) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 17·2 |
| Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 17·4 |

| Still Births. | | | | | | | | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Illegitimate | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| | | | | | | | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Totals | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | | | | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Rate per thousand live and still births | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9·01 |
| Rate per thousand live and still births (England and Wales) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 18·7 |

| Deaths.. | | | | | | | | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|--------|-------|
| | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 126 | 118 | 244 |
| Death rate per thousand estimated population | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11·7 |
| Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0·91) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10·6 |
| Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12·0 |

| Infant Mortality. | | | | | | | | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|------------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|--------|-------|
| Deaths of infants under one year of age. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Legitimate | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 (3) | 2 (—) | 5 (3) |
| Illegitimate | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — (—) | — (—) | — (—) |
| | | | | | | | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Totals | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 (3) | 2 (—) | 5 (3) |
| | | | | | | | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

(Deaths of infants under four weeks and under one week of age are shown in brackets.)

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-----|------|
| Infant Mortality rate (Infant Deaths under one year per thousand live births) | .. | .. | 15·2 |
| Infant Mortality rate (England and Wales) | .. | .. | 21·4 |
| Neonatal Mortality rate (Infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births) | .. | .. | 12·1 |
| Early Neonatal Mortality rate (Infant deaths under one week per thousand live births) | .. | 9·1 | |
| Perinatal Mortality rate (Still births and deaths under one week combined per thousand live and still births) | .. | .. | 24·0 |
| Legitimate Infant Mortality rate per thousand legitimate live births | .. | .. | 16·1 |
| Illegitimate Infant Mortality rate per thousand illegitimate live births | .. | .. | Nil |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births | .. | .. | 5·8% |
| Maternal deaths (Deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion) | .. | .. | Nil |
| Maternal Mortality rate per thousand live and still births | .. | .. | Nil |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|-----|
| Deaths from cancer (all ages) | .. | .. | 40 |
| Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages) | .. | .. | Nil |
| Deaths from whooping cough | .. | .. | Nil |
| Deaths from measles | .. | .. | 1 |
| Deaths from pneumonia | .. | .. | 7 |
| Deaths from influenza | .. | .. | 2 |
| Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years) | .. | .. | Nil |

CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES.

| | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 | 1959 | 1960 | 1961 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| *Birth Rate | 13.4 | 13.9 | 16.6 | 15.6 | 14.6 | 14.5 | 15.1 | 15.6 | 14.4 | 16.9 | 15.8 |
| *Death Rate | 12.8 | 12.1 | 9.9 | 11.5 | 10.4 | 10.4 | 10.4 | 10.6 | 10.9 | 11.5 | 11.7 |
| Infant Mortality Rate | 22.1 | 10.8 | 14.9 | 44.6 | 27.2 | 17.1 | 19.6 | 16.2 | 17.5 | 5.9 | 15.1 |
| | (6) | (3) | (5) | (14) | (8) | (5) | (6) | (5) | (5) | (2) | (5) |

*These rates are uncorrected. The figures in brackets are the number of infant deaths in each year.

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS.

| | | | | | | | | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------|------------|------------|
| Under 1 year | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 1 and under 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| 2 and under 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | 1 | 1 |
| 5 and under 15 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| 15 and under 25 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | — | — |
| 25 and under 35 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | — | 1 |
| 35 and under 45 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 45 and under 55 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 7 | 13 |
| 55 and under 65 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 25 | 16 | 41 |
| 65 and under 75 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 35 | 28 | 63 |
| 75 and over | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 53 | 62 | 115 |
| Totals | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | <u>126</u> | <u>118</u> | <u>244</u> |

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health.

“The Cambridgeshire United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Order 1951” provides for the appointment of a Medical Officer of Health to the Chesterton, Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Councils. Under present arrangements the officer is also appointed Deputy County and School Medical Officer to the Cambridgeshire County Council.

Public Health Inspectors.

Mr. Howells continues as Chief Public Health Inspector assisted by Mr. Mason.

Laboratory Facilities.

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertake bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water samples, and all necessary examinations in cases of infectious diseases.

Hospitals.

There are no General Hospitals situated in the area. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are sent to Cambridge City Isolation Hospital or to the Exning Isolation Hospital.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (Infectious Disease) REGULATIONS, 1953.

Under these Regulations a special provision is made to facilitate the investigation and control of outbreaks of ‘Food Poisoning’ (which includes typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, or other salmonella infection, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning) in that (a) the existing provisions regarding the prevention of a person suffering from a food poisoning infection from continuing in or entering into an occupation connected with the preparation and handling of food or drink are now extended to include ‘carriers’ of food poisoning infections, (b) local authorities may authorise their medical officer of health to issue on their behalf notices where required to effect (a) immediately if he thinks it necessary and then report such action to his Authority as soon as possible.

Such authority has been given to the medical officer of health but has not so far had occasion to be used.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.
Annual Case Incidence and Deaths, 1951-1961.

| | Years | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|
| Disease | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 | 1956 | 1957 | 1958 | 1959 | 1960 | Total | 1961 |
| MEASLES | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases .. | 176 | 94 | 48 | 94 | 446 | 24 | 100 | 140 | 437 | 79 | 1,638 | 343 |
| Deaths .. | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| WHOOPING COUGH | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cases .. | 101 | 64 | 16 | 86 | 52 | 4 | 61 | 3 | 44 | 43 | 474 | 12 |
| Deaths .. | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47.

No action was necessary under this Section during the year.

Section 50.

No action was necessary under this Section during the year.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS, 1961.

| Age in Years | Scarlet Fever | Whooping Cough | Acute Poliomyelitis | | Dysentery | Measles | Totals |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------|---------|--------|
| | | | Paralytic | Non-Paralytic | | | |
| Under 1 year | — | 1 | — | — | — | 11 | 12 |
| 1 — .. | — | 2 | — | — | — | 25 | 27 |
| 2 — .. | 1 | — | — | — | — | 25 | 26 |
| 3 — .. | — | 3 | — | — | — | 50 | 53 |
| 4 — .. | — | — | — | — | — | 41 | 41 |
| 5 — 9 .. | — | 3 | — | — | — | 157 | 160 |
| 10 — 14 .. | 2 | 3 | — | — | — | 26 | 31 |
| 15 — 24 ... | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | 3 |
| 25 and over | — | — | — | — | — | 5 | 5 |
| Age Unknown | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTALS .. | 3 | 12 | — | — | — | 343 | 358 |
| 1960 TOTALS | 17 | 43 | — | — | 6 | 79 | 145 |

| Age in Years | Acute Pneumonia | Erysipelas | Food Poisoning | Puerperal Pyrexia | Para- typhoid | Ophthalmia Neonatorum | Totals |
|--------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| Under 5 .. | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5 — 14 .. | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| 15 — 44 .. | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 45 — 64 .. | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| 65 and over | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTALS .. | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2 |
| 1960 TOTALS | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Total | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 1. Number of Cases on Register at commencement of year .. | 28 | 19 | 8 | 2 | 36 | 21 |
| 2. Number of Cases notified for first time during year under Regulations— | 3 | 6 | — | — | 3 | 6 |
| 3. Cases restored to Register | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4. Cases added to Register otherwise than by notification under Regulations— | | | | | | |
| (a) Transferred from other Districts | — | 5 | — | — | — | 5 |
| (b) From Death Returns | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5. Number of Cases removed from Register | 5 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 5 |
| 6. Number of Cases remaining on Register at end of year .. | 26 | 26 | 4 | 2 | 30 | 27 |

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION. RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS CASES ON REGISTER AT 31.12.61.

| Age Group | Male | | Female | | Total | | Grand Total |
|----------------|-------|-----------|--------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------------|
| | Resp. | Non-Resp. | Resp. | Non-Resp. | Resp. | Non-Resp. | |
| 0 — 15 .. | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| 15 — 25 .. | 3 | — | 11 | — | 14 | — | 14 |
| 25 — 35 .. | 3 | 1 | 5 | — | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| 35 — 45 .. | 6 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 13 | 2 | 15 |
| 45 — 55 .. | 6 | — | — | — | 6 | — | 6 |
| 55 — 65 .. | 3 | — | — | — | 3 | — | 3 |
| 65 and over .. | 2 | — | 1 | — | 3 | — | 3 |
| TOTALS .. | 25 | 4 | 26 | 2 | 51 | 6 | 57 |

TUBERCULOSIS.

Nine cases of respiratory but no cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified for the first time during the year. Five cases were transferred to the district previously notified in another area. On balance at the end of the year there were five more respiratory but four less non-respiratory cases on the register.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1961.

This new act is the first legislation solely concerned with public health since 1936. The Public Health Act, 1936, still remains the principal act and the new 1961 Act introduces new powers. Many of its provisions are taken from Private Acts where local authorities, finding the general legislation inadequate for their requirements, promoted their own Acts of Parliament to secure new and wider powers. These provisions, having been proved in practice in particular, are now applied nationally.

The Act consists of 86 sections and 5 schedules and, except for a few clauses, came into operation on the 3rd October, 1961. The provisions which are of greatest importance to the Council can be summarised as follows:—

- (a) Local Building Byelaws are to be superceded by Building Regulations made by the Minister and applying nationally.
- (b) Where a council resolves to construct a sewer in a highway and declares at the same time that the sewer will materially increase the value of premises fronting the street, they can recover from owners a contribution to the cost.
- (c) Summary powers are given to the Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Inspector to examine drains and require the remedying of defects and many new powers are given to local authorities relating to drains and closets.
- (d) Powers to deal with defective premises, dangerous buildings, ruinous and dilapidated buildings, neglected sites, filthy and verminous premises are extended.
- (e) New powers concerned with the prevention and notification of disease are introduced including provision for the payment of compensation to a person who is excluded from work on the request of the Medical Officer of Health.
- (f) Additional powers are given concerning streets and public places including the provision of litter bins by county, district or parish councils.
- (g) The control of trade effluents is extended.
- (h) Power is given to authorities to deal with such things as pigeons and to make Byelaws concerning pleasure boats, fairs and hairdressers.

REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

D. HOWELLS, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.,
Chief Public Health Inspector, Newmarket Rural District Council,
Council Offices,
Park Lane,
Newmarket.

Tel. No : Newmarket 2362.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during 1961:—

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|--------------|
| Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,231 |
| Bakehouses | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 30 |
| Food Premises registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955 | | | | | | 275 |
| Poultry Dressing Premises | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 140 |
| Miscellaneous Food Premises | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 161 |
| Canteens | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10 |
| Licensed Premises | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 23 |
| Shops (Under Shops Act, 1950) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11 |
| Knacker's Yard | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 |
| Factories | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 54 |
| Public Cleansing | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 139 |
| Infectious Disease Enquiries | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 |
| Premises Disinfected or Disinfested | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 13 |
| Drainage and Sewerage | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 633 |
| Caravan Sites | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 48 |
| Dwellinghouses (including re-visits) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 275 |
| Water Supply (excluding visits for sampling) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 18 |
| Re Improvement Grants | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 181 |
| Nuisances (including re-visits) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 41 |
| Schools | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9 |
| Sanitary Accommodation | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7 |
| Miscellaneous | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 113 |
| Verminous Premises | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | <u>3,425</u> |

Number of samples taken:—

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Water | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 89 |
| Ice Cream | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11 |
| Informal Notices Served | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 97 |
| Statutory Notices Served | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 |

PARISH STATISTICS.

| Parish | Acreage | Population (1951 Census) | Rateable Value at 1.4.62. | No. of Council Dwellings | | 1d. Rate Product 1961/62 |
|---------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| | | | | Pre-War | Post-War | |
| ASHLEY | 2,225 | 462 | 2,223 | 36 | 42 | 8 |
| BOTTISHAM .. | 2,854 | 1363 | 8,509 | 31 | 105 | 33 |
| BRINKLEY | 1,303 | 169 | 1,334 | — | 14 | 5 |
| BURROUGH GREEN | 2,272 | 283 | 1,318 | 18 | 10 | 5 |
| BURWELL | 7,016 | 2,304(est.) | 27,331 | 87 | 174 | 108 |
| CHEVELEY | 2,559 | 1,348 | 11,186 | 17 | 54 | 44 |
| CHIPPENHAM .. | 4,301 | 437 | 4,073 | — | 20 | 16 |
| DULLINGHAM .. | 3,387 | 523 | 2,702 | 9 | 34 | 10 |
| FORDHAM L.A. } | 4,331 | 1,705 | 11,560 | 85 | 88 | 47 |
| FORDHAM N.L.A. } | | | 180 | | | 1 |
| ISLEHAM | 5,230 | 1,342 | 6,312 | 50 | 78 | 24 |
| KENNETT | 1,431 | 203 | 3,948 | 4 | 40 | 16 |
| KIRTLING | 3,126 | 393 | 1,631 | 6 | 14 | 6 |
| LODE | 3,133 | 595 | 3,218 | 27 | 34 | 12 |
| REACH | 1,126 | 312(est.) | 1,007 | 4 | 18 | 4 |
| SNAILWELL .. | 2,034 | 325 | 1,579 | 1 | 15 | 6 |
| SOHAM | 12,999 | 4,865 | 37,497 | 191 | 297 | 146 |
| STETCHWORTH .. | 2,891 | 475 | 5,321 | 8 | 41 | 21 |
| SWAFFHAM BULBECK | 4,110 | 611 | 3,445 | 39 | 45 | 13 |
| SWAFFHAM PRIOR | 4,891 | 668(est.) | 3,524 | 42 | 36 | 13 |
| WESTLEY | 1,149 | 193 | 713 | — | 6 | 3 |
| WICKEN | 3,965 | 665 | 2,520 | 19 | 26 | 9 |
| WOODDITTON L.A. } | | | | | | 17 |
| WOODDITTON N.L.A. } | 4,768 | 979 | 8,363 | 26 | 30 | 15 |
| GAS | | | 176 | | | — |
| ELECTRICITY | | | | | | — |
| DISTRIBUTION | | | 2,388 | | | 16 |
| ELECTRICITY | | | | | | — |
| GENERATING | | | 1,364 | | | — |
| TOTAL .. | 81,101 | 20,220 | 153,422 | 700 | 1,221 | 598 |
| | | | | | | |

HOUSING

Houses not included in Clearance Areas.

DEMOLITION & CLOSING ORDERS.

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| (1) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17, Housing Act, 1957 | 33 |
| (2) Unfit houses closed under Sections 16 & 17, Housing Act, 1957 | 14 |
| (3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957.. | 1 |
| (4) Houses on which Demolition Orders were made | 30 |

REPAIRS.

HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED.

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (5) After informal action by Local Authority | 31 |
| (6) After formal notice under Public Health Acts | |
| (a) by owners | 2 |
| (b) by Local Authority | Nil |
| (7) After formal notice under Housing Act, 1957 | |
| (a) by owner | Nil |
| (b) by Local Authority | Nil |

ACTION TAKEN DURING THE POST-WAR PERIOD.

| Parish | Demolished | | Houses Closed | | Parts of Buildings Closed | Demolition Orders Made | D.O's etc. Cancelled |
|-------------------|------------|----------|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| | Houses | Hutments | Orders | Undertakings | | | |
| ASHLEY .. | 13 | — | 1 | 2 | — | 11 | — |
| BOTTISHAM .. | 18 | 12 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 41 | — |
| BRINKLEY .. | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| BURROUGH GREEN .. | 4 | — | 4 | 2 | — | 4 | — |
| BURWELL .. | 26 | — | 8 | 4 | — | 20 | 1 |
| CHEVELEY .. | 10 | — | 2 | 2 | — | 3 | — |
| CHIPPENHAM | 2 | — | 2 | 2 | — | 3 | — |
| DULLINGHAM | 13 | — | 2 | 7 | — | 7 | — |
| FORDHAM .. | 18 | — | 5 | 1 | — | 18 | — |
| ISLEHAM .. | 28 | — | 6 | 5 | — | 25 | 2 |
| KENNETT .. | 2 | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | — |
| KIRTLING .. | 3 | — | — | — | — | 3 | — |
| LODE .. | 6 | — | — | 1 | — | 14 | 1 |
| REACH .. | 4 | — | — | — | — | 8 | — |
| SNAILWELL .. | 1 | 37 | 5 | — | — | 2 | — |
| SOHAM .. | 51 | — | 11 | 6 | 6 | 55 | 2 |
| STETCHWORTH | 8 | — | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| SWAFFHAM BULBECK | 8 | — | 5 | 5 | — | 8 | 1 |
| SWAFFHAM PRIOR .. | 12 | — | 3 | — | — | 12 | — |
| WESTLEY WATERLESS | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| WICKEN .. | 8 | — | 1 | 3 | — | 9 | — |
| WOODDITTON | 8 | — | 5 | 1 | — | 10 | — |
| TOTAL .. | 243 | 49 | 69 | 46 | 8 | 268 | 7 |

84 houses were built by private enterprise during the year and the Council built 68 houses and bungalows.

The Old People's unit at Soham, now known as "Hereward House", was mentioned in last year's report. The venture has proved to be a marked success and appreciated by the residents of all sixteen self-contained flatlets. The surrounding bungalows are also occupied by old persons who enjoy the social facilities provided in the common lounge. A similar scheme has been prepared for the parish of Burwell which incorporates certain improvements particularly in connection with a better standard of bathroom accommodation.

NEW DWELLINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS.

| Year | By the Local Authority | By Private Enterprise | Total |
|-------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 1952 | 72 | 20 | 92 |
| 1953 | 137 | 52 | 189 |
| 1954 | 110 | 58 | 168 |
| 1955 | 140 | 35 | 175 |
| 1956 | 124 | 49 | 173 |
| 1957 | 36 | 59 | 95 |
| 1958 | 52 | 85 | 137 |
| 1959 | 36 | 34 | 70 |
| 1960 | 37 | 67 | 104 |
| 1961 | 68 | 84 | 152 |
| Total | 812 | 543 | 1,355 |

Council Houses.

The Council now owns 1,918 dwellings which are under the management of the Council's Surveyor. The work continues on the modernization of pre-war Council houses and 332 tenants now enjoy modern amenities. A further 370 dwellings remain to be modernized but this work is proceeding as quickly as the labour force in the area will allow.

50 dwellinghouses have been sold to sitting tenants or other suitable applicants since the Council adopted this policy.

Housing Improvements—House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

The housing improvement scheme continues to operate satisfactorily and 181 visits were made to dwellinghouses to advise owners on the standard required to qualify for a Discretionary or Standard Grant. This work falls within the general duties of the Public Health Inspector who is responsible for improvements and repairs to property and the survey of dwellinghouses in connection with slum clearance. The Council's Surveyor advises the Council on the costing aspect and the following figures might be noted:—

- (a) Number of houses on which Improvement Grants were paid during 1961:—
 - Discretionary Grants 44
 - Standard Grants 38
- (b) Amount paid in Grants.
 - Discretionary Grants £12,204
 - Standard Grants £4,947
- (c) Number of Properties improved since the Act came into force.
 - Discretionary 436
 - Standard 63
- (d) Amount paid on (c).
 - Discretionary Grants £95,546
 - Standard Grants £8,294

The following statistics indicate the average grant paid per dwelling both Standard and Discretionary. The maximum Discretionary Grant is £400 and the maximum Standard Grant is £155 subject in both cases to the grant not exceeding half the cost of improvements.

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------|
| (a) Average grant per dwelling since the scheme came into operation to the end of 1960 | £212 | per house |
| (b) Average grant during the year 1955 (when the scheme got under way) | £212 | per house |
| (c) Average Discretionary Grant during 1961 | £279 | per house |
| (d) Average Standard Grant during 1961 | £130 | per house |
| (e) Overall average grant during 1961 (Discretionary and Standard) .. | £209 | per house |
| (f) Overall average grant during 1960 (Discretionary and Standard) .. | £181 | per house |

Houses purchased by the Council during recent years with a view to Modernization or Development.

The following dwellings have been dealt with in this manner:—

| <i>Address</i> | <i>Action Taken</i> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pair Almshouses, High Street, Stetchworth. | Converted to four old person's flats. |
| Four unfit cottages, High Street, Stetchworth. | Demolished and site redeveloped. |
| Three unfit cottages, Eagle Lane, Dullingham. | Site being redeveloped. One cottage demolished and one vacated. |
| Five cottages, Cross Green, Dullingham. | Two tenants rehoused. Cottages will be demolished and site redeveloped along with adjoining land. |
| Eight unfit cottages, School and Schoolhouse, School Lane, Brinkley. | Premises will be demolished and site redeveloped. |
| Thirteen unfit cottages, Walnut Tree Row, and Town Yard, Burrough Green. | Only five of these cottages remain occupied. Will be demolished and site redeveloped. |
| 15, 17, 19 and 21, Station Road, Soham. | Sound dwellings now been modernized. |

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

Caravan sites do not present a serious problem in this area, most of the sites being occupied by single caravans where sanitary problems are of a minor nature. Our experience shows that site owners and caravan occupiers are reluctant to lay a piped water supply to a site for the benefit of one caravan only on the grounds that the development is temporary and uneconomic. However, all new applicants are reminded that a wholesome water supply must be provided within 60 feet of the caravan. It is also found that residential caravanners do not appreciate the importance of having a suitable fire extinguisher in a readily accessible position and this fact is stressed on every occasion. Two families are still residing in old bus bodies which have been on the site for many years and pressure has been brought to bear during the year to try to secure improvement.

The owner of one caravan site, where it was proposed to station twelve caravans, failed to complete the works which were scheduled in the licence conditions and the project has now been abandoned although four of the vans had not been cleared at the end of the year.

Planning permission was refused in connection with a proposed site at Burwell and the applicant appealed against this decision. The site referred to was the old refuse dump at High Town, Burwell where the applicant proposed to station twenty-eight caravans but the access was considered to be most unsatisfactory and the appeal was lost.

Forty-two site licences were issued during the year as follows:—

| Number of Caravans | Licences |
|--------------------|----------|
| One | 32 |
| Two | 6 |
| Three | 3 |
| Five | 1 |

Each site licence has a schedule of conditions attached based on the Minister's Model Standards and one is pleased to report a marked improvement after the unsatisfactory legislation previously provided under the Public Health Act, 1936.

There are no holiday caravan sites in the area but a Council owned residential site with all amenities would do much towards the provision of temporary accommodation for young married couples who are patiently awaiting the allocation of a Council house or the purchase of a suitable building site, the cost of which is likely to be almost beyond their means.

Rent Act, 1957.

Very few tenants understand the protections afforded them by the provisions of this Act although it would appear that a considerable number of property owners have taken advantage of the legislation which allows an increase in the rents of certain dwellings. Rateable values are generally low resulting in low controlled rents and only one Certificate of Disrepair was issued during the year.

Clearance of Unfit Dwellings.

Forty-eight dwellings were closed or demolished during the year and twenty-one families were rehoused by the Council. One is still faced with the problem of dealing with old persons and owner-occupiers who are living in unfit cottages and loath to vacate this type of accommodation in favour of a Council dwelling at a higher rent. The differential rent scheme does help in this respect and many old persons obtain financial aid from the National Assistance Board but in many instances the motor car and television set still take precedence over modern amenities and decent housing conditions. On the other hand, a considerable number of dwellings are under-occupied and the tenants are encouraged to move into smaller accommodation when the opportunity arises. It has been obvious for many years that old cottages are usually a liability to landlords but now that rents can be increased by $12\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the cost of "improvements", coupled with Standard Grant Schemes, we look forward to some improvement in the general standard of accommodation. The wise landlord, however, sells the dwelling on vacation to a prospective owner-occupier who is willing to spend a considerable amount of money, often more than its economic worth, on modernizing the property and preserving the village character. This part of our work is given the prompt attention it deserves.

At the time of writing this report the list of unfit dwellings is being checked and revised in order that a fresh assessment can be made of the needs of the area now that the back of the problem has been broken.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Slaughterhouses.

The five licensed slaughterhouses have been used regularly and have been more than adequate for the slaughtering needs of the butchers concerned. Highly qualified Veterinary Officers, who have visited on various occasions, have agreed the premises are well designed and the animals are well catered for prior to slaughter. It is with some pleasure that one can report a complete absence of tuberculosis in bovines and the following table indicates the remarkable improvement which has taken place since 1954, when slaughtering returned to Local Authority supervision after the temporary war time arrangement:—

Tuberculosis in Bovines.

| Year | Percentage of Animals affected with Tuberculosis | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|-------|
| 1954 (Part) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8.01% |
| 1955 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9.2% |
| 1956 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5.0% |
| 1957 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4.2% |
| 1958 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4.4% |
| 1959 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2.9% |
| 1960 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1.03% |
| 1961 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil |

The Meat (Staining and Sterilization) Regulations, 1960 are complied with, most condemned offal being destroyed by burning at the slaughterhouse premises.

One thousand two hundred and thirty-one visits were made to slaughterhouses and butchers' shops and the following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and the organs condemned as unfit for human consumption. Both inspectors hold The Certificate of the Royal Society of Health relating to the inspection of meat and other foods.

Meat and Offal Condemedned.

| | Bovine | Pigs | Sheep and Lambs |
|----------------------|--------|----------|-----------------|
| Livers | 75 | 39 | - |
| Half Livers | 20 | 7 | - |
| Lungs | 2 | 7 | - |
| Heads | 3 | 19 | - |
| Hearts | 1 | 19 | - |
| Mesentery | - | 4 | - |
| Spleen | - | 21 | - |
| Forequarters | - | 1 | - |
| Pork | - | 17½ lbs. | - |

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemedned in Whole or in Part during the Year 1961.

| | Cattle not Cows | Cows | Calves | Pigs not Sows | Sows | Sheep and Lambs | Horses |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------|--------|---------------|------|-----------------|--------|
| Number killed and inspected | 625 | 6 | 13 | 1720 | 20 | 1328 | - |
| All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticeri:— | | | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 96 | 3 | - | 53 | - | - | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticeri .. | 15.3 | 50.0 | - | 3.0 | - | - | - |
| Tuberculosis only:— | | | | | | | |
| Whole carcases condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | - | - | - | 18 | 1 | - | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis | - | - | - | 1.0 | 5.0 | - | - |
| Cysticercosis:— | | | | | | | |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration .. | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Generalised and totally condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Other foods condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|------------|
| Various tinned and bottled foods | .. | .. | 131 |
| Butter and Margarine | .. | .. | 33 lbs. |
| Prunes | .. | .. | 30 lbs. |
| Frozen Ox Kidneys | .. | .. | 11 lbs. |
| Cereals | .. | .. | 17 packets |
| Cheese | .. | .. | 7 lbs. |
| Cake and Fruit Pies | .. | .. | 8 lbs. |

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

These Regulations apply to all premises where a “food business” is carried on; “food business” is defined to mean (subject to certain minor exceptions) any trade or business for the purpose of which any person engages in the handling of food, and “business” includes the undertaking of a canteen, club, school, hospital or institution, whether carried on for profit or not, and any undertaking or activity carried on by a public or local authority. The Regulations apply in all cases when food is handled, whether or not there is any question of a sale or exposure for sale; “handling” includes the processing of food and the cleaning of utensils.

The Regulations lay down detailed requirements in respect of the following matters:—

1. The cleanliness of food premises, equipment and containers.
2. The prohibition of the preparation or packing of food for reward on domestic premises, other than those of the person carrying on the business.
3. The protection of food from the risk of contamination.
4. The personal cleanliness of all persons engaged in the handling of food.
5. The carriage and wrapping of “open food” (i.e. food not contained in a container of such materials and so closed, as to exclude the risk of contamination).
6. Persons engaged in the handling of food who are suffering from certain infections, such as a staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning.
7. The soil drainage systems, water cisterns, and sanitary conveniences for food premises.
8. The provision of a clean, wholesome, sufficient and constant water supply.
9. The provision of wash-hand basins and washing facilities for persons engaged on the handling of food.
10. The provision of first-aid materials and cupboard or locker or other accommodation for the clothing of persons so engaged.
11. The provision of facilities for the washing of food and equipment.
12. The lighting, ventilation, siting (in relation to sleeping places), cleanliness and repair of food rooms and preventing the accumulation of refuse therein.
13. The temperature at which certain foods, such as meat and fish, may be kept.
14. The repair and maintenance of food stalls and vehicles and the washing and other facilities to be provided.
15. The means of transport of meat, and the overalls and head coverings to be worn by persons carrying meat.

The above Regulations apply to the following premises within this Rural District:—

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Butchers | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 15 |
| Bakers | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11 |
| Grocers and General | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 64 |
| Fish and Chip Shops | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 |
| Cafes and Snack Bars | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 |
| School Kitchens | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9 |
| Other School Meal Premises | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 13 |
| Licensed Premises and Hotels | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 77 |
| Sweets and Confectionery | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10 |
| Factory Canteens | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Poultry Dressing Establishments | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Miscellaneous | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 |

Seven hundred and forty-one visits were made to food premises (excluding slaughterhouses) during the year and the good standard which was reported last year has been maintained. Considerable attention has been directed to mobile shops, particularly those selling open food but the Hygiene Regulations are still not explicit on the requirements relating to washing facilities where food is not sold for “immediate consumption”.

Registered Food Premises.

The following premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:—

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| (a) Sausage and cooked meat premises | 14 |
| (b) Fried Fish Shops.. .. . | 5 |
| (c) Premises used for the storage and sale of ice cream.. .. . | 62 |
| (d) Premises used for the manufacture of ice cream | 1 |

Two hundred and seventy-nine visits were made to the above premises during the year, with special emphasis on the possibility of food poisoning from preserved food.

Ice Cream.

Eleven samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination and all were reported as Grade 1. Seventy-eight visits were made to ice cream premises during the year.

The manufacture of ice cream continued on a small scale at Soham and all samples from these premises were reported as Grade 1. “Soft” ice cream has been introduced to the area by mobile traders and this is being kept under close observation; however, most of the ice creams sold are the traditional prepacked varieties.

Milk.

Since the 6th April, 1959, this Rural Area has been a “specified area” and only designated milk may be retailed for human consumption. Milk production is supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and we are informed that 35 dairy farms are registered in this area; 24 of these are Tuberculin Tested herds.

At the request of the County Medical Officer of Health, pasteurised milk is no longer sampled at the schools, this work being carried out by the Weights and Measures Officer in the course of his visits

Poultry.

The premises at Soham continued to be used for the plucking and dressing of poultry on a small scale. Regular visits were made and 570 birds were condemned as unfit. All condemned birds are stained and collected by a Cambridge contractor along with guts, etc., and the final disposal has been checked to our satisfaction with the Cambridge Public Health Department.

Licensed Premises.

Twenty-three inspections of licensed premises were made during the year and it can be reported that only nine premises out of seventy-seven still rely on pail sanitation; two of these premises at Fordham will be connected to the public sewer in the near future. Particular attention is paid to glass washing facilities when inspections are made.

Bakehouses.

Thirty visits were made to the eleven bakehouses in the area to secure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations. The occupier of one bakehouse, who operates single-handed, does give cause for concern and although certain improvements have been carried out this man’s approach to the subject of hygiene leaves much to be desired.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-1958.

Twenty-four slaughtermen’s licences were renewed during the year and one licence was issued to a “learner” permitting slaughter under the supervision of an experienced slaughterman. No action was necessary under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.

Knacker’s Yard.

Only three horse carcasses were brought into this establishment and all knacker meat is sterilized on the premises for feeding to the occupier’s stock. As previously reported very little business is carried on at these old established premises.

WATER SUPPLY

Sources.

There has been no change in the sources of supply which were described in last year's report. All domestic piped supplies are chlorinated at the source and the Council's Engineer, Mr. M. E. Moore, reports as follows:—

“Rainfall during the Winter 1960/61 replenished the Chippenham Well to a considerable extent, the standing water level being the highest for some years. The benefit arising from this was noticed during the summer when the depressed water level kept well above that of the previous years. The total quantity of water supplied during the year shows a slight increase over previous years, and this is particularly noticeable in the Swaffham Prior area supply which serves the expanding areas of Bottisham and Burwell.

The new sewerage scheme at Burwell will create an additional demand for water. Complaints were received of poor pressure in the village of Quy.

During the next year it will be necessary to consider reinforcing the supply to Bottisham to meet the requirements of new development.

The complaints of brown water caused by iron hydroxide in suspension were met by regular flushing of the mains.

During the year new mains extensions were carried out at Saxon Street and Cheveley in an effort to improve the supply to Cheveley and Ashley. This has been effective, but proposals to develop Cheveley Village might necessitate further mains extensions if the improvement is to be maintained.

The new main linking Isleham Fen with Soham was completed at the end of the year and the improved pressure has been given to the hamlet of Barway.

Other minor extensions of the water mains have been carried out at a pace determined by the rate of new development.

Progress in connection with the re-grouping of the Council's undertaking with that of Ely R.D.C., Ely U.D.C., Newmarket Waterworks and Mildenhall R.D.C. has been rapid and possibly this will be the last report on the Council's water undertaking.”

Sampling.

Samples are taken for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis at the Public Health and Public Analyst's Laboratories.

Water Sampling during 1961.

| Sample | Main Supplies | | Private Supplies | | Total |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-------|
| | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | |
| Chemical .. | 4 | — | 1 | — | 89 |
| Bacteriological | 68 | — | 6 | 10 | |

All samples taken for chemical analysis were untreated and collected directly from the source along with nine samples for bacteriological examination.

Typical Results of Analysis of Public Supplies.

| Test | | | | | | Chippenham | Swaffham Prior |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|------------|----------------|
| Physical Characters | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Good | Good |
| Reaction | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | pH 7.1 | pH 7.9 |
| Parts per 100,000. | | | | | | | |
| Chloride | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2.5 | 25.3 |
| Ammonia (Free and Saline) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | absent | 0.0521 |
| Ammonia (albuminoid) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.0025 | 0.0016 |
| Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs. at 37°C. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.0397 | 0.0347 |
| Nitrates | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.65 | absent |
| Nitrites | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | absent | absent |
| Poisonous Metals | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | absent | absent |
| Total Hardness | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 25.6 | 5.4 |
| Bacteriological Examination. | | | | | | | |
| Coliform organisms in 100 mls. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | nil | nil |
| Number of micro-organisms per ml. developing at 37°C. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | nil | nil |
| Number of micro-organisms per ml. developing at 21°C. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | nil | nil |
| Microscopical Examination of Deposit | | | | | | None | None |

Piped Supplies.

There is very little to add to the comments made in last year's report. Section 78 of the Public Health Act, 1961 empowers the Council to recover up to £60 per dwelling from an owner where a water supply is laid on in default. Until the new Water Board takes over the management of the water undertaking, the Council will continue to provide a service to the curtilage of the properties at a remarkably cheap rate.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Burwell sewerage scheme was completed during the year and work is going ahead on the connection of individual house drains by property owners. A free "lateral" is provided where the owner undertakes to connect within 12 months and the Council has also agreed to consider the payment of a contribution towards the cost of closet conversions under the provisions of Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The Fordham scheme had not been completed by the end of the year which resulted in a serious nuisance on the Thirlwall Drive Estate where 78 houses discharge sewage to a small plant. Effluent disposal by subsoil drains proved to be grossly inadequate, in spite of all precautions, and the surrounding land was flooded in fairly close proximity to some of the dwellings. The unsatisfactory Council house cesspools at Fordham, which have been a nuisance for some years, have been abolished and a good response from private householders is anticipated.

The septic tanks on the Reach and Chippenham housing estates are a source of nuisance and require emptying far too frequently. The Consulting Engineers are preparing a sewerage scheme for Reach and Swaffham Prior and the Chippenham problem will be overcome by providing a small plant.

Almost continuous negotiations have taken place with the Urban District Council during the year relating to the sewerage of the Cheveley Park area where 230 houses in the built up area on the fringe of Newmarket rely on unsatisfactory cesspool drainage. The chalk subsoil is heavily polluted and as a result further housing development which is urgently required has had to be deferred. Unfortunately no real progress has been made during the year. The engineering and financial problems associated with this project are being vigorously tackled by the Council.

The Dullingham sewerage scheme should be under way very shortly, a satisfactory tender having been submitted by a reliable contractor.

The Swaffham Bulbeck scheme has not yet started and once again one must report the sheer inadequacy of septic tanks and cesspools in modern housing development. Many houses in this parish are ripe for modernization, the village being very attractive and readily accessible to Cambridge and its shopping facilities.

The villages of Isleham and Ashley, where a number of dwellings are found on very limited sites, urgently require sewerage schemes before property owners can be expected to provide even the basic amenities in their houses.

The ditches on the fringe of Soham continue to be a nuisance and it is unfortunate that these areas were deleted from the original sewerage scheme. It is obvious that sewers will have to be provided and the sooner the better.

The sewer in the High Street at Cheveley consists chiefly of an old and defective brick culvert, part of which had to be renewed some years ago, tapering to a 6" sewer which copes with all the village sewage. A small plant is provided at the outfall but one wonders how long it will be before crude sewage is running down the street as more and more development takes place on available land.

The provision of main sewers at Soham, Bottisham and Lode has encouraged housing improvements and new development, and it is hoped that the same will be reported in the smaller parishes when a public sewer is provided but in the meantime the modernisation of attractive properties is somewhat hampered. Wicken deserves a special mention because the water table is rather high, subsoil is heavy in places and septic tanks are a poor substitute for a public sewer.

The Council's Engineer is responsible for the maintenance of public sewers and sewage works and we jointly agree that there is room for a vast improvement in the field of sewage disposal. No longer should we tolerate traditional sewage plants with stinking sludge beds, settlement tanks and grit channels coupled with a doubtful effluent at the outfall and complaints from nearby residents. Until we reach the stage when sewage is broken down and rendered harmless by short life radioactivity, mechanical equipment must be put to full use in the form of sludge driers, dewaterers or full oxygenisation. The Newmarket Rural District Council has shown a lively interest in this subject during the past year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The weekly refuse collection service has continued satisfactorily during the year and although it may have certain shortcomings it is appreciated by the householders throughout the area who well remember the service which was provided during the immediate post-war period when "unburnable" refuse was collected at three weekly intervals over most of the area while only the Cheveley Park area and the main street at Soham was favoured with a weekly collection. While it is gratifying to be able to report this improvement in the service one is still fully alive to the fact that the collection is from the kerbside only, in common with neighbouring authorities. Indeed, a recent survey throughout East Anglia revealed that out of twenty-six Local Authorities, nineteen collected from the kerbside and only five provided a full weekly service. If these facts are considered to be irrelevant, one is bound to revert to the question of cost and the Council did give careful consideration to the change over from metal ashbins to the provision of paper sacks. It is obvious that the paper sack system is far more hygienic and attractive to the householders and refuse collectors but it is estimated that the cost of running such a service would be approximately £21,000 per annum which might be considered an exorbitant increase over the present cost to the householder of approximately 6d. per week. This change over would be a major undertaking and before suitable racks are installed at dwellinghouses the Council must be satisfied that the scheme will operate satisfactorily, that paper sacks will always be available at a reasonable cost and that the ratepayers are fully aware and willing to pay the additional rate for a very desirable service. Briefly, any service can be provided if funds are made available subject, of course, to labour being obtainable and the paper sack system would help in this direction. The use of paper sacks as a liner to the existing dustbins has been given careful thought but the manufacturers have apparently not considered this proposal as it would probably not fall in with manufacturing techniques.

Three Diesel propelled vehicles are fully engaged on the collection of household refuse and one of these was purchased during the financial year. Only two loaders and a driver are engaged on each vehicle making it quite impossible to cut down on labour costs whichever system is adopted.

The Fordham refuse pit is no longer used for the disposal of household rubbish and the Burwell Broads pit has now been filled, soiled over and bulldozed. The Woodditton Pit is still in use and the Reach dump will provide tipping space for many years to come. It is found that the burning and bulldozing of refuse at Reach avoids pest infestations and regular inspections are made with this in view.

Personnel.

The thirteen men engaged on public cleansing duties are regular workers who have been employed in the department for a considerable number of years and five men have already exceeded ten years service. Four of the men are over 60 years of age, three are over 50 years of age and when the time comes for replacements to be engaged we doubt whether applicants will be forthcoming for this type of work. At the end of the financial year, labourers and drivers were paid at the rate of £10 1s. 9d. and £10 16s. 6d. respectively for a 42 hour week and arrangements are made for alternate Saturdays to be free of work. Routine vehicle maintenance is carried out by the drivers.

Salvaged Materials.

The following materials were baled and salvaged at the Burwell Depot:—

| Material | Year ended 31st March, 1962 | | Year ended 31st March, 1961 | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|----------|
| | T. C. Q. | £ s. d. | T. C. Q. | £ s. d. |
| Waste Paper | 118 5 3 | 736 15 4 | 91 9 1 | 567 19 5 |
| Ferrous Metals | | | 2 16 0 | 35 11 0 |
| Non-Ferrous Metals | 6 3 | 27 7 6 | 6 3 | 23 7 8 |
| Rags and Sacking | 1 15 0 | 31 2 7 | 1 6 2 | 27 5 4 |
| Sundries | | 1 14 0 | | 5 0 |
| TOTALS | 120 7 2 | 796 19 5 | 95 18 2 | 654 8 5 |

A bonus amounting to the sum of £374 was shared by the men during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1962. Waste paper continued to be sold at the price of £6 0s. 0d. per ton for mixed waste and £6 10s. 0d. per ton for Newspaper.

Cesspool Emptying.

A new Shelvoke and Drewry diesel propelled cesspool emptier was delivered in March, 1962 and is fully engaged on the clearance of cesspool contents and the desludging of small sewage disposal plants. The following clearances were carried out during the year:—

| Private | | Council | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------------------|---------------|-------|
| Cesspools cleared | Loads | Cesspools cleared | Sewage plants | Loads |
| 608 | 695 | 506 | 118 | 1,361 |

There has been no change in the charges made for cesspool emptying. The disposal of cesspool contents proved difficult in the parish of Fordham where the old refuse dump has been used for several years. This gave rise to complaints but by careful supervision, spraying and covering with soil no serious nuisance has been created. The sewerage scheme will overcome this problem.

The following statistics are of interest:—

Statistics for the Year ended the 31st March, 1962.
compared with previous year.

| Refuse Collection and Disposal. | March 1962 | March 1961 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Total Mileage | 28,304 | 26,806 |
| Refuse Collected—loads | 1179 | 1128 |
| Nett cost of service | £8,693† | £7,712† |
| Cost per load—collection and disposal | £7 7 6 | £6 16 9 |
| Annual cost per 1,000 population | £415 18 6 | £381 15 8 |
| Vehicle Costs—including repayment of loans, etc. | £2,122† | £1,813† |
| Cost per Mile | 1s. 6d. | 1s. 4d. |
| Vehicles—actual running costs— | £1388 | £1,079 |
| Vehicles—actual running costs—cost per mile.. .. . | 1s. 0d. | 9½d. |
| Fuel consumed:— | | |
| Petrol gallons 1,247 | | |
| Derv gallons 1,612 | 2,859 | 2,755 |
| Average mileage per gallon:— | | |
| Petrol | 7·08 | 6·8 |
| Derv | 12·07 | 12·1 |
| Income from salvage sales NET | £423* | £427* |
| †This figure includes £734 contribution to Renewals Fund. | | |
| *After deducting men's bonus | | |
| Cesspool Emptying. | | |
| Total Mileage | 8122 | 8834 |
| Cost of Service | £1,668x | £1,868 |
| Number of loads cleared | 2,056 | 2,134 |
| Cost per load—collection and disposal | 16s. 3d. | 17s. 6d. |
| Fuel consumed—Petrol 1781 gallons. Derv 48 gallons | 1,829 | 1,782 |
| Fuel consumption per load—gallons | 0·88 | 0·8 |

xChargeable work amounted to £2,270 giving a surplus of £602.

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Shops Act, 1950.

The usual routine visits have been made to shops where persons are employed to ensure compliance with Section 38 relating to sanitary accommodation, ventilation and heating.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools in the district but the pool in the Newmarket Urban District is used regularly by rural residents. The parishioners of Soham are taking steps to provide their own swimming pool but it will be some time before the scheme is under way.

Offensive Trades.

There are no premises registered for offensive trades in the district.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

A free service is still provided to private householders. Although a general increase in infestations was reported throughout East Anglia, the Council's Rodent Officer successfully coped with the problem using "Warfarin" poison baits. Zinc phosphide has been used occasionally in suitable conditions and special attention has been paid to refuse dumps, sewage plants and Council ditches.

Disinfestation and Disinfection.

Now that householders can purchase efficient insecticides in handy form from the local chemist, there is little excuse for infestations but old persons and others occasionally appreciate advice and assistance.

The Rodent Officer dealt with the following cases during the year:—

| | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|
| Fleas | .. | .. | .. | 3 |
| Flies | .. | .. | .. | 7 |
| Ants | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Carpet Beetles | .. | .. | | 1 |
| Wasps' Nests | .. | .. | | 11 |

Wasps' nests are dealt with free of charge at Council premises but other occupiers are charged 5/- for the service.

One house was disinfected after a case of infectious disease but this is only carried out on request.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

No licence to keep a pet shop was issued during the year.

Agriculture (Safety Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

This Act provides yet another example of public health duties being divided between two Authorities. Where casual labour, including women, is employed on fruit picking, etc., compliance is essential but the average farm worker will make his own sanitary arrangements, leaving the Public Health Inspector to carry out his more important duties. Statutory action has not been necessary.

Clean Air Act, 1956.

No applications for prior approval relating to new furnaces were received. The area is agricultural in character and only one smoke nuisance was reported. The firm concerned is hoping to change over to oil firing in the near future.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

One complaint from three householders was received during the year. This related to a modern cardboard box factory and the matter was taken up with the firm concerned. Exhaust ventilation was installed to avoid the opening of windows but unfortunately the nuisance has not been abated and negotiations continue.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1957.

There are no premises registered in the area.

APPENDIX
FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1961 for the Rural District of Newmarket in the County of Cambridgeshire.

Prescribed Particulars of the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:—

| Premises (1) | Number on Register (2) | Number of | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | Inspec- tions (3) | Written Notices (4) | Occupiers prosecuted (5) |
| (1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authorities (i.e. factories not having mechanical power) | 5 | 3 | — | — |
| (2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (i.e. factories having mechanical power) | 66 | 51 | 3 | — |
| (3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers' premises) | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL | 71 | 54 | 3 | — |

2. Cases in which defects were found:—

| Particulars (1) | Found (2) | Remedied (3) | Referred | | No. of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (6) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | To H.M. Inspector (4) | By H.M. Inspector (5) | |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unreasonable Temp. (S.3) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)— | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | 2 | 2 | — | 2 | — |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL | 3 | 3 | — | 2 | — |

